

## **Historic, archived document**

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ADVERTISER

WRITER

PROGRAM TITLE

FARM AND HOME HOUR

OK

CHICAGO OUTLET

UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS #345

(

TIME

WLAQ ... BLUE

DATE

DAY

11:30-12:30 P.M.

JULY 7, 1939

FRIDAY

PRODUCTION

ANNOUNCER

ENGINEER

REMARKS



1. ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers.

2. MUSIC: QUARTET, Rangers' Song.

3. ANNOUNCER: When a forest fire breaks out on one of our National Forests  
4. the attack is organized much in the same way a nation's  
5. forces would be mobilized for war. And one of the greatest  
6. problems in fighting forest fires, as in war, is to furnish  
7. the front-line forces with food and equipment as quickly  
8. and efficiently as possible. When a forest fire must be  
9. fought in rugged back country where no roads exist, where  
10. trails are the only means of getting in, the Forest Service  
11. generally uses pack trains made up of several pack mules and a  
12. lead saddle horse to transport supplies to the fire-fighters.  
13. To save precious time in getting pack animals to a base camp  
14. where they load for the trails, and in order for the animals  
15. and their packer to arrive in good condition to start work,  
16. a special Forest Service truck has been designed to transport  
17. a complete pack train, and carry it to its destination in  
18. the shortest possible time --- Up on the Pine Cone National  
19. Forest today, fire fighters are battling a troublesome fire  
20. in the remote back country. When we arrive at the Ranger  
21. Station it is mid-afternoon and Ranger Jim Robbins is just  
22. entering the office of Ben, the fire dispatcher - -

23.

24.

25.



1. DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES

2. JIM: (FADING IN) Hi, Ben. Anything more from the fire?

3. BEN: Not a thing since this morning, Jim. Those emergency crews  
4. from the CCC camp went up about an hour ago, and the road  
5. crew's on it's way now.

6. JIM: How about the supplies?

7. BEN: They're loadin' the trucks now.

8. JIM: Good. Jerry hasn't got back with that new truck for the  
9. pack string. But he ought to be here any time now.

10. BEN: That'll sure be a lotta help to be able to load a whole  
11. string of mules into one truck.

12. JIM: Yeah, save time and wear and tear on the animals and the  
13. packer too.

14. BEN: Have you told Slim about it yet?

15. JIM: No, I haven't. I want to break the news to him before  
16. Jerry gets back if I can. Slim doesn't take to new-fangled  
17. ideas very fast. You have to break him in easy.

18. BEN: Slim's been in here every thirty minutes since sunrise to  
19. see if there's going to be any work for him and his mules  
20. on this fire. He said Bertha wanted to get back to work.

21. JIM: (CHUCKLING) The only thing Bertha ever wanted to do is  
22. exactly what you don't want her to do. I've seen a lot of  
23. mules in my day, but Bertha is the ornriest, laziest,  
24. no-account critter I ever laid eyes on. If Slim wasn't so  
25. fond of her, I'd have got rid of her long ago.

DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES





1. SLIM: (FADING IN) Hello, Jim, I been lookin' for you. How  
2. soon are you gonna need me and Bertha to pack supplies up  
3. to the fire?  
4. JIM: Prett quick now, Slim. We're going to have to supply  
5. the fire crews by packing stuff in from the end of the  
6. road.  
7. SLIM: I'm rarin' to go whenever you say. And Bertha's  
8. practically dancin' a jig, she's so crazy to go to work.  
9. JIM: She'll get plenty of it packing supplies up the Sawtooth.  
10. SLIM: We oughta be startin' up to where the trucks unload,  
11. hadn't we, Jim? It's quite a ways from here.  
12. JIM: We're going to send the mules up there by truck, Slim.  
13. SLIM: Huh?  
14. BEN: Bertha'll get a ride in the new truck, too, Slim.  
15. SLIM: What's that, Ben?  
16. BEN: I say Bertha will get to ride in the new truck, the new pack  
17. string truck.  
18. SLIM: Bertha ain't gonna ride in no truck. She can still navigate  
19. powerful fast on her own.  
20. JIM: But we'll have to take our pack strings up to the loading  
21. station by truck, Slim. We can't take time for you and  
22. Bertha to meander clear over to the Sawtooth trail on foot.  
23. SLIM: But Bertha can meander mighty fast, Jim. You know that.  
24. JIM: Sure. But this truck we're getting is built specially to  
25. haul a string of pack animals and a lead horse



1. SLIM: All in one truck?

2. BEN: And it's a single body truck, too. No trailer.

3. SLIM: Now looky here, Jim, I'm gonna set my foot down about this.

4. JIM: About what, Slim?

5. SLIM: Bertha ain't gonna ride in no truck with eight other mules  
6. and a lead horses. Why they'd be packed in so tight they  
7. couldn't breathe. And besides, Bertha don't like crowds.

8. JIM: Nobody'll be crowded in this truck, Slim. The Forest  
9. Service had it built specially to carry a complete pack string,  
10. with plenty of room for the animals, so they'd be fit to hit  
11. the trail as soon as they get to the end of the road. It'll  
12. save nearly a whole day's time getting the mules up to  
13. where the trail starts.

14. SLIM: But, Jim, I told you many a time that Bertha ain't never  
15. rode in a truck. It makes her sick to ride in trucks.

16. JIM: How do you know it makes her sick to ride in a truck if she  
17. never rode in one?

18. SLIM: Huh? - - Oh, anybody could tell that. A mule's a delicate  
19. animal, Jim. You got to be careful how you treat a mule.

20. BEN: Sure you do, or they'll kick the livin' daylights out of you  
21. when you aren't lookin'.

22. SLIM: Aw keep still, you. What do you know about mules, sitting  
23. here in a office all day long doin' nothin' but answerin'  
24. phone calls and twistin' radio knobs?

25. BEN: I know an ornery critter when I see one, Slim.



1. JIM: Why, Slim, Bertha will be tickled pink to ride in the  
2. new truck. It's got a radio so we can get messages to  
3. it on the road, and it's painted green with the Forest  
4. Service shield on the side - - -

5. SLIM: What good's all that gonna do Bertha if she gets killed  
6. from ridin' in one of them contraptions?

7. BEN: It's as safe as a rocking chair, Slim.

8. SLIM: I've heard of lots of accidents with big trucks.

9. JIM: She ought to feel honored to be one of the first mules to  
10. ride in the new outfit.

11. SLIM: Oh, I know she would, Jim. But now I know Bertha wouldn't  
12. want to be selfish about it. She wouldn't be wantin' to  
13. push herself forward. I know she'd be glad to let one of  
14. them other mules ride in it the first time. You know,  
15. Jim, things like that don't mean nothin' to Bertha any more,  
16. since she's gittin' older.

17. JIM: Oh, there's another thing I forgot to tell you about, Slim.  
18. There's a compartment for a bed where you can sleep. It's  
19. just like a pullman car.

20. SLIM: Sleep? Me? What for?

21. JIM: When you have to make a trip at night. If you could get some  
22. good sleep instead of sitting up all night, you'd be in better  
23. condition to hit the trail the next morning.

24.

25.





1. SLIM: No, sir. Not me. You don't catch me goin' to bed in  
2. no truck. Think I'm outa my head? Why, if we was to  
3. have a blow-out or go over a chuck hole in the road, I'd  
4. likely git my neck broke.

5. DOOR OPENS AND CLOSSES

6. JERRY: (FADING IN) Hey -- I got the new truck outside, Jim.

7. JIM: Hello, Jerry. That's good. I'm glad you got here as  
8. soon as you did.

9. JERRY: Boy, she drives like a million. Already broken in and  
10. rarin' to go.

11. JIM: That's great. We'll get the mules loaded and high-ball for  
12. the Sawtooth right away.

13. SLIM: What's that think you got in your hand there, Jerry?

14. JERRY: This? Oh, I meant to show it to you, Slim. Look.

15. SLIM: What in the name of heaven is it?

16. JERRY: Goggles for the mules.

17. SLIM: Goggles? -- For the mules?

18. JERRY: Yeah. It's a goggle helmet. Fits down over the mules head  
19. like a gas mask, and the goggles protect 'em from the road  
20. dust, so they won't go blind from it.

21. BEN: Say, that's a snappy lookin' outfit.

22. JIM: Anything we can do to keep those pack animals in good  
23. condition has to be done.

24. SLIM: You ain't aimin' to put them goggles on Bertha?

25. JERRY: Sure. She'll look cute in one, don't you think so, Jim?





1. SLIM: You ain't gonna do no such thing. Bertha don't have to  
2. wear glasses. She can see without 'em.  
3. JERRY: Yeah. She can see well enough to take a bit out of your  
4. shoulder when she gets hungry.  
5. SLIM: Now, looky here, Jim. I let you fellas impose on Bertha  
6. for the last ten years. But she ain't gonna have her eyes  
7. ruined by wearin' them funny lookin' goggles.  
8. JIM: Well, now, Slim - - I wouldn't - -  
9. SLIM: How would you feel wearin' them things if you was a mule?  
10. JERRY: Speak for yourself, Slim.  
11. SLIM: Any self respectin' mule would be ashamed to be seen in one  
12. of them things. Why, if you was to put 'em on a string of  
13. pack mules they'd git scared to death just lookin' at each  
14. other.  
15. JIM: Well, let's go give it a try, Slim. We'll go out to the  
16. corral and load the mules, (FADING) and then we'll put  
17. one of the goggle helmets on - -  
18. MUSIC UP AND OUT  
19. FADE IN SOUND OF TRUCK IN LOW GEAR  
20. JIM: (CALLING) About three feet more, Jerry. Back her right  
21. up to the gate of the corral -- Easy now -- Easy -- Hold  
22. it!  
23. TRUCK STOPS  
24. JERRY: (OFF) How's that, Jim?  
25.



1. JIM: Plenty good. Hold it right there -- Slim can you give  
 2. me a hand with this ramp? --- Slim?  
 3. JERRY: (FADING IN) He isn't around here, Jim.  
 4. JIM: Isn't around?  
 5. JERRY: I don't see him.  
 6. JIM: He was here two minutes ago.  
 7. JERRY: (CALLING) Slim! --- Yo, Slim!  
 8. JIM: What's the matter with him? He knows we've got to load  
 9. these doggone mules --- Hey, Slim.. Where are you?  
 10. JERRY: I haven't seen him since we left Ben's office.  
 11. JIM: Didn't he get on the truck?  
 12. JERRY: I don't know. He said he was going to ride in back.  
 13. JIM: Then he didn't even get on the truck, because I came around  
 14. back to help you get the truck up to the corral gate, and  
 15. he wasn't there.  
 16. JERRY: Maybe he walked down to the corral, down through the barn.  
 17. He could make it faster that way than we could.  
 18. JIM: There wouldn't be any point in that -- not unless -- Say --  
 19. by George -- Climb up on the fence, Jerry, and count those  
 20. mules, will you?  
 21. JERRY: (FADING) Sure, Jim. There ought to be nine of 'em here,  
 22. counting Bertha.  
 23. JIM: How many do you see?  
 24. JERRY: (OFF) --- five, six, seven, eight --- only eight of 'em --  
 25. I'll count 'em again.



1. JIM: Be sure you get it right.
2. JERRY: That's it, Jim. There's only eight mules here.
3. JIM: Is Bertha there?
4. JERRY: Bertha? -- No, Jim, she isn't. She's gone.
5. MUSIC UP AND OUT
6. DOOR OPENS
7. JIM: Come on in the office, Jerry. I'm going to call down town
8. and see if anybody down there has seen Slim. (CALLS) Oh,
9. Bess --
10. BESS: (OFF) Yes, Jim?
11. JIM: Know where Slim is?
12. BESS: (OFF) No, I haven't seen him.
13. DOOR CLOSSES
14. JERRY: We've been lookin' for that blasted mule skinner for almost
15. a half an hour, Jim. Why the deuce don't you fire him?
16. JIM: I've thought of that myself.
17. JERRY: He knows we gotta get the pack string up to the fire as
18. fast as we can.
19. JIM: I know he knows it -- Now let's see, where would he be
20. likely to go down town, if he did go there?
21. JERRY: Can't we go on without him, Jim?
22. JIM: Who'd take the pack train after we got it up there?
23. JERRY: Aren't there any other packers that can do it?
24. JIM: They've all got their own strings to wrangle.
25. JERRY: I'd fire him so quick it'd make his hair stand up.





1. JIM: That won't do us any good now. And besides that, we've  
 2. got to find Bertha, too.

3. JERRY: Well, the other mules are loaded and ready to go.

4. JIM: I know. But we need every animal we can get our hands on  
 5. to take equipment to that fire.

6. BESS: (OFF) Oh, Jim. Jim!

7. JIM: What is it, Bees?

8. BESS: (FADING IN) He's coming up past the barn now. I saw him  
 9. out the kitchen window.

10. JIM: Slim is?

11. BESS: Yes, Slim. He seems to be in a terrible hurry.

12. JERRY: He better be. Jim, why don't you give him the gate? He's  
 13. wasted 30 minutes of our time that we need to be gettin'  
 14. that pack string on the road.

15. JIM: I know, Jerry. But he's put in about 30 years workin' hard  
 16. for the Forest Service, in all kinds of weather and all kinds  
 17. of hours. I guess maybe we can afford to be a little patient  
 18. with him now.

19. JERRY: But he's no good to us when we need him most. And even if he  
 20. is ready to go now, we still don't have Bertha.

21. JIM: Now you just take it easy a second, young fellow. I've got  
 22. an idea that might work out. Maybe I can get Slim to bring  
 23. Bertha and come along with us in no time at all.

24.

25.





1. JERRY: Aw, you'll only be wastin' your breath, Jim. He's made
2. up his mind Bertha's not going to ride in the truck. And
3. I'll bet he took her out of the corral himself and hid her
4. somewhere.
5. JIM: THAT'S exactly what he did.
6. JERRY: What?
7. BESS: How do you know, Jim?
8. JIM: He's done the same thing before.
9. JERRY: He has?
10. JIM: Yep. And the only thing in the world that will make him
11. bring her back is to do something very special for Bertha.
12. DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES
13. SLIM: (FADING IN BRAINLESS) Here I am, Jim. Here I am. I'm
14. all set to go. I'm powerful sorry I was late, but you know
15. I forgot to git me some things together --
16. JIM: I know, Slim. But we've run into some awful bad luck.
17. SLIM: You have?
18. JIM: Yeah. I hate to break it to you, Slim.
19. SLIM: What is it, Jim?
20. JIM: Do you think you can stand it?
21. SLIM: Well --- I think, maybe I can --
22. JIM: Bertha's gone.
23. SLIM: (VERY POOR ACTING) Oh, Jim -- you don't mean it. Bertha
24. gone? I can't believe it.
25. JIM: Yep, she's gone.



1. SLIM: Oh, that's awful.

2. JIM: Yes, just when the Forest Service needs her most, she's

3. gone -- Frankly, I'm surprised that she'd do a thing like

4. that.

5. SLIM: Well, of course, Jim --

6. JIM: And then another thing -- I had something very special

7. arranged for Bertha today, something I've been looking

8. forward to for a long time.

9. SLIM: You did? -- What was it?

10. JIM: Well, Slim, that great big, beautiful truck we're going to

11. carry our pack string in was designed and built just to

12. carry good mules and for nothing else. So I thought that

13. since Bertha has given so many years of her life to the

14. Forest Service, nothing would be more fitting than to name

15. the truck for her.

16. SLIM: Well -- well, that sure is thoughtful of you, Jim -- What

17. were you gonna name it?

18. JIM: The Bertha Streamliner.

19. SLIM: (MOST PLEASED) Aw, Jim -- Say, that's wonderful. Bertha

20. sure will love that.

21. JIM: But I wouldn't think of doing it, now that she isn't here.

22. SLIM: Well, I'll tell you, Jim --

23. JIM: Do you think, if you looked for her yourself, that you

24. could find her?

25. SLIM: I believe I could, Jim. I believe I could.



1. JIM: Could you do it in about -- five minutes?
2. SLIM: Maybe so, Jim. I'll do my best. Now don't you go off
3. without us. (FADING) Bertha sure will be tickled pink
4. to hear she's gonna have --
5. MUSIC UP AND OUT
6. ANNOUNCER: Well, it looks as if Ranger Jim knows how to handle men
7. and mules as well as his National Forest --- Uncle Sam's
8. Forest Rangers comes to you every Friday on the Farm and
9. Home Hour through the courtesy of the National Broadcasting
10. Company with the cooperation of the United States Forest
11. Service.
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